



The Buckeye Airlifter

The 179th Airlift Wing, Ohio Air National Guard, Mansfield, OH



Oct.. 2002

9-11remembrance showed true American spirit and patriotism



Members of the 179th Honor Guard open the Let Freedom Reign program at the Renaissance Theater downtown with their special remembrance ceremony.

**By: Lt. Shannon Scherer
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September 11, 2001 is a day that will live in American memories forever. The one year anniversary of the tragic events will not soon be forgotten either.

Across the nation, this day of remembrance seemed to be more about the celebration of the human spirit and the triumph of American liberty and pride than a day to grieve and lick wounds. Americans everywhere gathered to pay tribute to those

lost in the terrorist attacks, but they also gathered to remember that as a nation we stand united to face our enemies and that in the end, good will prevail.

Across Ohio, headlights on cars stayed on to remember the day, a memorial tribute to the American spirit hosted by Gov. Bob Taft was held at the Statehouse and attended by thousands, and cities and towns, schools and civic groups honored those lost and those who continue on

continued on pg. 4.....

September 11, 2002

One year ago today our world changed forever. The World Trade Center collapsed in unparalleled destruction. The Pentagon remained intact, but bore the scars and was left with a large wound in its side. In Pennsylvania, a tranquil field was transformed into scorched earth as the battle lines against terrorism were being drawn. Thousands of lives were lost in just a few hours. However, out of the darkness of that horrible day, a new resolve has arisen to make the world a safer place. In the midst of tragedy, many acts of selflessness and sacrifice were performed by ordinary citizens doing extraordinary things.

Many of you proudly answered the call to duty from the President of the United States and the Governor of Ohio. Within two weeks following September 11, the Ohio National Guard had mobilized more than 2,500 soldiers and airmen in support of the War on Terrorism. You were placed in harm's way during Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, the actions taking place in and around Afghanistan, and Operation NOBLE EAGLE, providing defense to the homeland. For your commitment and sacrifice, your community, your state and your nation are grateful.

Today, as you go about performing your daily missions, take a moment to reflect upon the great sacrifices that have been made by many. As we continue to grieve for the victims of 9-11 and for the families and friends who lost loved ones, so shall we continue to fight the good fight against those who would threaten freedom at every turn. As President George W. Bush said in the days immediately following the attacks, "We will not waiver. We will not tire. We will not falter. We will not fail." God bless you and may God bless America.

**MG John H. Smith
The Adjutant General**